

4

Science Standard
4.2.c.



Life and Death with Decomposers

California Education and the Environment Initiative

Approved by the California State Board of Education, 2010

The Education and the Environment Curriculum is a cooperative endeavor of the following entities:

California Environmental Protection Agency
California Natural Resources Agency
Office of the Secretary of Education
California State Board of Education
California Department of Education
California Integrated Waste Management Board

Key Leadership for the Education and Environment Initiative:

Linda Adams, Secretary, California Environmental Protection Agency
Patty Zwarts, Deputy Secretary for Policy and Legislation, California Environmental Protection Agency
Andrea Lewis, Assistant Secretary for Education and Quality Programs, California Environmental Protection Agency
Mark Leary, Executive Director, California Integrated Waste Management Board
Mindy Fox, Director, Office of Education and the Environment, California Integrated Waste Management Board

Key Partners:

Special thanks to **Heal the Bay**, sponsor of the EEI law, for their partnership and participation in reviewing portions of the EEI curriculum.

Valuable assistance with maps, photos, videos and design was provided by the **National Geographic Society** under a contract with the State of California.

Office of Education and the Environment

1001 I Street • Sacramento, California 95812 • (916) 341-6769
<http://www.calepa.ca.gov/Education/EEI/>

© Copyright 2010 by the State of California
All rights reserved.

This publication, or parts thereof, may not be used or reproduced without permission from the
Office of Education and the Environment.

These materials may be reproduced by teachers for educational purposes.



Lesson 1 Breaking It Down

None required for this lesson.

Lesson 2 Decomposers and Scavengers

None required for this lesson.

Lesson 3 A Big Job for a Tiny Crew

1	Evidence of Decomposition	2
2	Evidence of Decomposition	3
3	Evidence of Decomposition	4
4	Decomposition Diagram	5

Lesson 4 Waste Not

5	Wastewater Treatment Plant	6
6	Wastewater Management System	7

Lesson 5 Down on the Farm

7	Topsoil	8
----------	-------------------	---

Lesson 6 The Benefits of Composting

None required for this lesson.

VA #1 Evidence of Decomposition



Decomposing animal



Decomposing pumpkin

VA #2 Evidence of Decomposition



Mushrooms on rotting log

Moldy bread



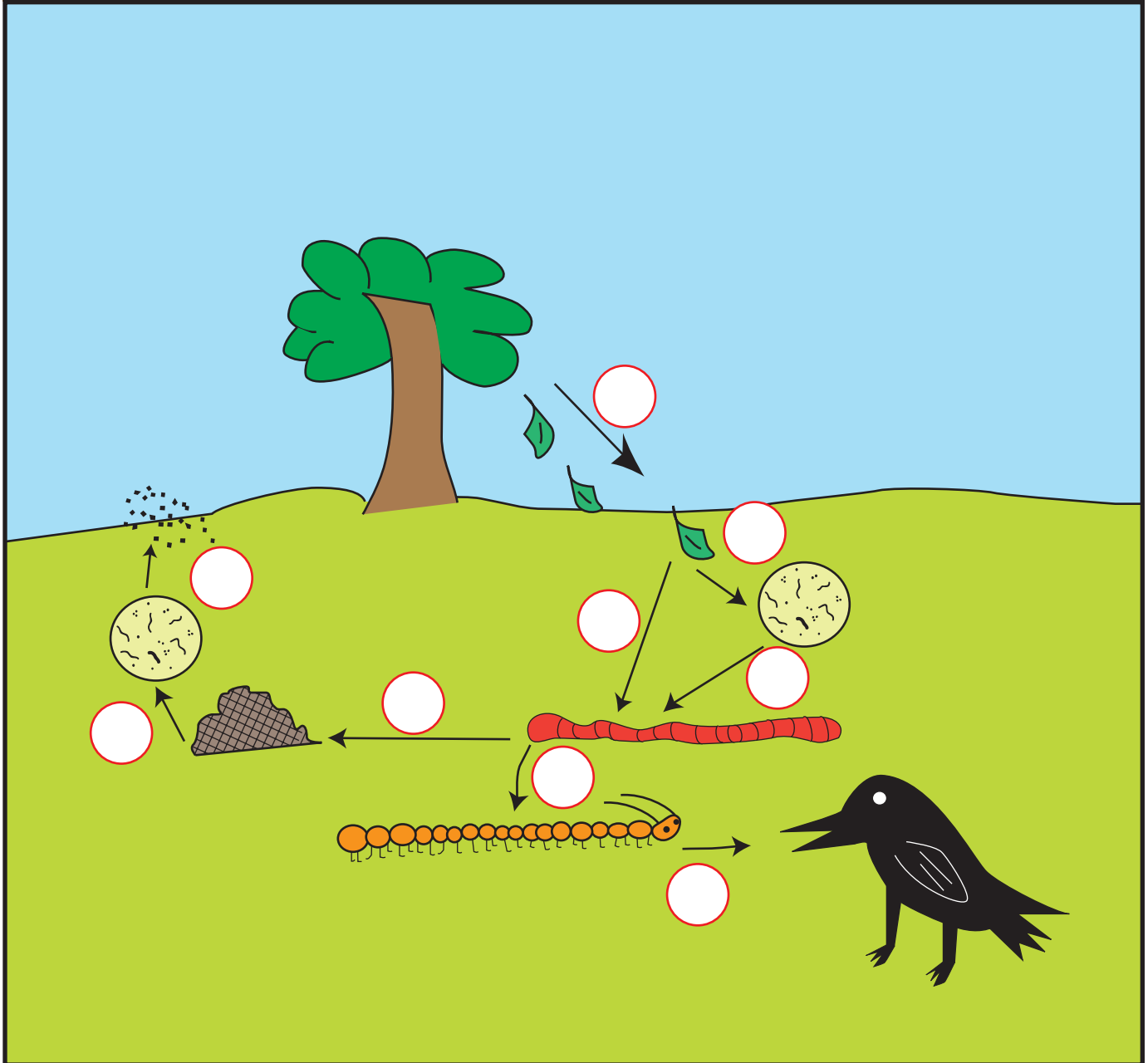
VA #3 Evidence of Decomposition



Moldy strawberry



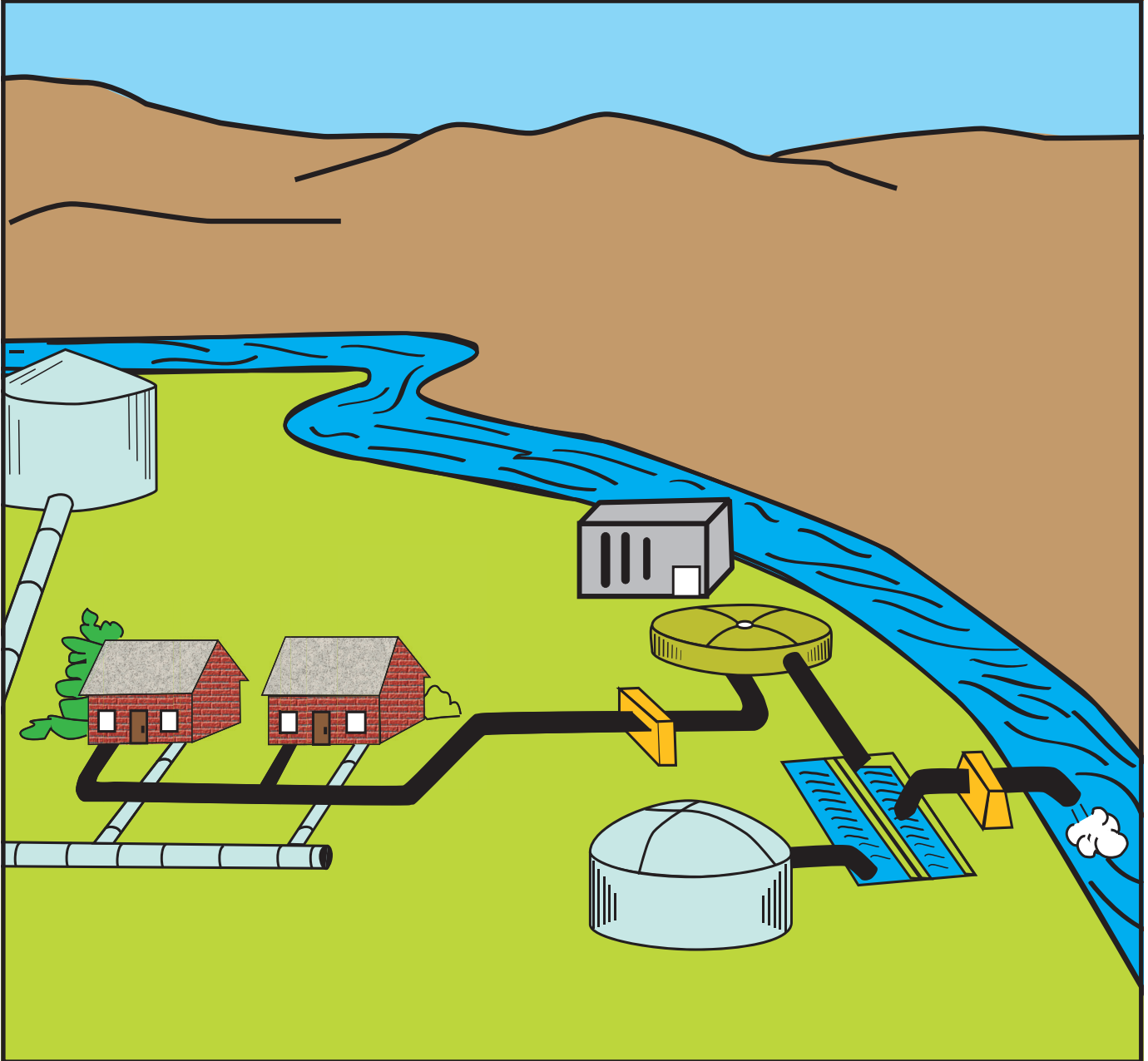
VA #4 Decomposition Diagram



VA #5 Wastewater Treatment Plant



VA #6 Wastewater Management System



VA #7 Topsoil



Topsoil of the Central Valley



Topsoil of the Southern California Badlands



California STATE BOARD OF
EDUCATION

California Education and the Environment Initiative